

# Block Island

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

### Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

#### Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Jack Reed (D)  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D)  
Rep. James Langevin (D-2nd)

#### Contact

Charlie Vandemoer, Refuge Manager  
Rhode Island National Wildlife  
Refuge Complex  
50 Bend Road  
Charlestown, RI 02813-2503  
Phone: 401/364 9124, ext. 11  
Fax: 401/364 0170  
TDD: 800/877 8339  
E-mail: charlie\_vandemoer@fws.gov

#### Profile

Established:	1973
Complex acres:	2,574
Block Island acres:	133
Staff (complex-wide)	9 FTEs
*Salaries/operations	\$1,116,867
**One-time project funds	\$267,628
ARRA project funds	\$250,000
Fire	\$10,785
Fees	\$1,092
2010 volunteer hours:	432
2010 visitation:	20,548

\*Includes annual maintenance, utilities, contracts, etc.

\*\*Includes deferred maintenance, construction, equipment and biological projects

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge is one of five national wildlife refuges in the Rhode Island Complex.

#### Purpose

Block Island National Wildlife Refuge was established for particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.

#### Visitor Services

- Open to surf fishing
- .5 miles of walkable shoreline
- Wildlife/nature photography
- Renowned for birding during song bird migration
- Designated law enforcement officer shared with Connecticut refuges

#### Management Activities

- Implementing the approved comprehensive conservation plan (2002) to enhance wildlife habitats, control invasive species, eliminate non-compatible uses and increase visitor services
- Land protection plan targets 95 acres for land acquisition
- Lead in cooperative, interagency-financed, island-wide piping plover program
- Cooperatively planning public uses
- Restoring Beane Point facility for environmental education and employee housing

#### Highlights

The refuge is world-renowned for its unusually high density and diversity of migratory songbirds in fall, with 95 species recorded at one time and more than 6,621 individual birds banded from 2004 to 2009.

The Beane Point facility has had most of its water heated and 100 percent of its electrical power supplied by the sun since 1999.

The refuge continues to host open house and nature programs at the renovated Beane Point facility.

The refuge enjoys strong partnerships with non-government organizations.

The refuge is home to the federally listed threatened American burying beetle.

The refuge is pursuing a collaborative management program involving state, town and conservation organizations.



*Black-crowned night-heron*

Steve Farrell/USFWS

#### Issues

High cost of land acquisition

Refuge is understaffed due to budgetary constraints

Isolated parcels make management difficult

Reducing the spread of invasive species

Management of barrier beaches in high public-use areas, including off-road vehicle use

Implementing seasonal closures on barrier beach with limited law enforcement

Managing incompatible public uses

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**1 800/344 WILD**  
**<http://www.fws.gov>**

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